

of God will know it. The Eternal Father does not communicate His life and image, and then withhold the self evidence of His immanence. Such an abnormal phenomenon never existed. Not only does "God know them that are his, but equally do they know him." II Tim. 2:19; John 17:3. I never saw a happy soul yet that was in doubt of the divine indwelling.

It was impossible for God to make the way of reconciliation plainer and easier. Without atonement the breach between God and the sinner could never be closed. This has been done so perfectly that the Holy Ghost could put upon record Rom. 8:1, 4, 10, 14, 16, and the wonderful 33rd and 34th. This we are to believe and in justification is complete. Not with such faith as a sinner can exercise before the repentance but with the faith that appropriates Christ which is possible only after the radical resolution effected by repentance. It is as impossible to exercise faith unto salvation before repentance, as for a dead man to exercise the functions of health. If "by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie" He has given us such "strong consolation," and such an immutable "refuge" why do you not by faith "lay hold on eternal life." Heb. 6:18; I Tim. 6:12. If you are done with sin as completely as Christ himself then you have no more to fear from its consequences, unless God will undo all he has accomplished in Christ, and perhaps all his promises. Take God at his word in Mark 9:23, and John 11:40, and Eph. 2:8. Then comes your irrevocable consecration. II Cor. 5:14, 15.

Thanks for the stamps you enclosed. I need many, and God is schooling me Phil. 4:12. What a blessed resting place in Psalms 62:5.

Union Deposit, Dauphin Co., Pa.

PITH AND POINT

O. L. BROWN

We were pleased to read in a recent issue of the EVANGELIST a caution or admonition by the editor to contributors to be more brief and pointed in their writings, which we believe to be perfectly proper and even essential for the good of the paper and for the edifying of its readers. The *Ram's Horn* has only been in existence seven years and now enjoys a circulation of 40,000 readers, due we believe to its short and pointed hits and articles. The writer did some canvassing for the EVANGELIST and I wish to quote some objections (not to find fault but to show a point) which came from persons who had been old readers. One says, "Oh it contains so many long, dry discourses." Another, "Oh, it contains so much no better than most of us can write." A certain writer once said, "talk to the point and stop when you have reached it," and may this

not as well be applied to writers. At the present time the gold hunters at Klondike are famishing for food and papers state that our large packing houses are grinding and compressing beef; milk is condensed and every thing is reduced to the least possible bulk and weight so as to get it to the famishing people with as little expense as possible. Is not this applicable to the conveying of the gospel to the famishing souls? The great need of the day is less expense and more space so as to do the greatest amount of good with the means we can procure. So brethren let us put the most thought in as few words as possible so the editor can get as much as possible in each edition of the paper. Also give room for bits of church history, eminent sayings of wise men and other things to spice with and we believe ere many years we will see a decided increase in the readers of our paper.

Norcatour, Kans.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

I. D. BOWMAN

There is perhaps no church on earth that obeys more perfectly the form of Bible doctrine than the Brethren church. For this I thank God. But on the other hand I fear that many do not expect or claim the power. I fear that some even deny the power that the form symbolizes. I believe this is especially true concerning the laying on of hands. The Holy Spirit has so heavily laid this thought upon my heart that I cannot refrain from writing.

1. The Laying on of Hands was for the Reception of the Holy Ghost. "They sent unto them Peter and John: who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he had fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Acts 8:15-17. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them." Acts 19:2-6. This was not salvation or regeneration, not as a Saviour, but the Comforter, the sanctifier, the indweller, the power of the Holy Ghost for service, the teacher, the one that gives the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding", Phil. 4:4, and causes us to cease from our work and enter into rest, Heb. 4:3, 10. Not until after we are saved, after we are sons of God, does he send forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. Gal. 4:6. Then we receive the more abundant life, "the more excellent way," 1 Cor. 13, the love of God that surpasses knowledge, Eph. 3:14-

20, the Spirit that wholly sanctifies the whole man, spirit, soul and body, Rom. 15:16; 1 Thes. 5:23. O this wonderful blessing is for all true believers, but I fear that not one in ten ever receive the blessing. I confess that I had hands laid on me seventeen years before I received the Holy Spirit. Indeed I did not know there was any Holy Ghost, for what I thought was the Holy Ghost was not the Holy Ghost at all. O the blessed Spirit that gives perfect peace, causes us to love dearly our enemies, and to rejoice greatly when all kinds of evil is said about us, and above all to listen to the voice of the Spirit and be willing to submit to his will without a murmur. It means all this and much more.

2. How to Receive Him. 1. Ask. Luke 11:13. 2. Believe. Gal. 3:14. 3. Obey. Acts 5:32. 4. Receive. Acts 19:2. 5. Laying on of hands. Acts 8:15-17. Hands should not be laid on any until they are instructed and until they at least claim to comply with all the conditions. They should completely yield, claim and expect then and there the Holy Ghost to come upon them and fill them, and do for them all that he has promised. We should lay hands suddenly on no man. 1 Tim. 5:22. I laid hands on hundreds that I am very sure never received the Spirit, because they were never taught properly. And what is worse still I had never received Him myself.

Dear Brother minister have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? Do settle the question definitely at once, if not do not lay hands on any one until that matter is settled. Then do not lay hands on any one until they are properly instructed, and are willing to comply with all the conditions. Then lay hands on with the assurance that he will come on all who have complied with the conditions, *I am very sure that the one great need of our church is the Holy Spirit.* I may write a letter in the near future and try to tell you in part how the Lord has been doing exceeding abundantly above all asking or thought for our church here since we have given the Spirit the right way. But as my article is lengthy already I will close for this time.

"TO THE POOR THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED"

B. C. MOOMAW

In the decline of the nineteenth century we are witnessing the last, and by far the most important transference of political authority. The labor class, the largest group in the body politic, is rapidly assuming the reins of power, and pressing its importunate demands for dominance over all the functions of government. This rise to power of the proletariat is the most significant sign of the times, and, besides the political